

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A virus detection method is disclosed for use in a computer system that contains at least one object that may potentially become infected with a computer virus. The method has steps of providing a database for storing information that is descriptive of a state of the at least one object as it existed at a point in the past. ~~and, if~~ For an object that is indicated as having a current state that is described by the stored information, another step of programmatically examining ~~examines~~ the object for a presence of a computer virus while assuming that the current state of the object is the same as the state of the object as it existed at the point in the past. The ~~virus detection method, system and computer program uses the database to stores~~ additional information, beyond what is necessary to determine simply whether or not a particular object, such as a file, has changed, ~~and to then employ this~~ The additional information is employed to achieve a more rapid virus scan, even when the list of viruses being scanned for has changed since a previous scan.